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Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-10 ISO-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 HA-05 TRSE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /121 W
----------069847 190132Z /73
O 190118Z APR 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0780
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 01500

FOR EMBASSY CAPE TOWN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, UNSC, SF, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: INFORMAL CONSULTATION WITH AFRICAN
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MEMBERS OF SECURITY COUNCIL

REF: USUN 01486

1. AMBASSADORS LEONARD AND MCHENRY HELD INFORMAL CONSULTATION ON NAMIBIA AM APRIL 18 WITH THE AFRICAN MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL (AMBASSADORS HARRIMAN OF

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NIGERIA, RAMPHUL OF MAURITIUS, AND N'DONG OF GABON).
IN HIS CAPACITY AS SECURITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT, AMBASSA-
DOR LEONARD EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD CONSULTED INDIVIDUALLY
WITH MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL REGARDING THE
TIMING OF FORMAL COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF NAMIBIA AND
HAD RECEIVED THE AFRICAN GROUP'S LETTER OF APRIL 14
(REFTEL). HE NOW WISHED TO TALK WITH THE AFRICAN MEM-
BERS OF THE COUNCIL COLLECTIVELY IN ORDER TO LEARN IF
THERE HAD BEEN ANY RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THEIR POSI-
TIONS. IN RESPONSE, ALL THREE AFRICAN AMBASSADORS
STATED THAT THEIR VIEWS HAD NOT CHANGED. THEY CONTINUED
TO OPPOSE A FORMAL MEETING OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL IN
THE ABSENCE OF REACTIONS FROM SWAPO AND SOUTH AFRICA
AND PRIOR TO THE SPECIAL SESSION.

2. THROUGHOUT THE HOUR-LONG DISCUSSION THE AFRICAN
AMBASSADORS TENDED TO FOCUS ON THEIR DESIRE THAT NOTHING
NOW OCCUR WHICH WOULD DIMINISH THE IMPORTANCE OF THE
UNGA SPECIAL SESSION ON NAMIBIA THOUGH HARRIMAN ACKNOW-
LEDGED THE SESSION'S REAL ROLE WAS ALREADY MINIMAL.
ALL THREE SAID THAT THEY WERE NOT OPPOSED IN PRINCIPLE
TO A FORMAL MEETING -- THAT THEIR CONCERN WAS ONLY THE
TIMING OF SUCH A MEETING. IN THIS CONNECTION, HARRIMAN
STATED THAT HE HAD JUST RECEIVED WORD FROM LAGOS THAT IN
DISCUSSIONS WITH SAM NUJOMA IN DAR DURING THE PAST WEEK-
END, NIGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER GARBA HAD BEEN PERSUADED
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THAT FORMAL SECURITY COUNCIL DELIBERATIONS SHOULD BE
POSTPONED UNTIL AFTER THE SPECIAL SESSION.

3. REFLECTING THE DISCUSSIONS AMONG THE FIVE, AMBASSA-
DOR MCHENRY THEN EXPLAINED THE CONTACT GROUP'S DESIRE
TO BEGIN FORMAL DELIBERATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE
STATED THAT THE FIVE HAVE CIRCULATED THEIR PROPOSAL FOR
A NAMIBIAN SETTLEMENT TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND WOULD
NOW LIKE TO EXPLAIN TO THE COUNCIL PUBLICLY THE SUB-
STANCE AND CONTEXT OF THE PROPOSAL. THE FIVE
RECOGNIZE THAT A LENGTHY DISCUSSION LASTING PERHAPS TWO
WEEKS WILL HAVE TO TAKE PLACE IN THE COUNCIL PRIOR TO
ANY ACTION BY THE COUNCIL ON OUR PROPOSAL; NEVERTHELESS,
THE FIVE WOULD LIKE TO BEGIN THAT PROCESS THIS WEEK
AND WOULD THEN BE WILLING TO ADJOURN UNTIL AFTER THE
SPECIAL SESSION. MCHENRY AGAIN UNDERLINED THE DANGER OF
DELAY AND EXPRESSED HIS CHAGRIN OVER THE HARMFUL
PRECEDENT BEING SET BY THE AFRICAN GROUP IN REFUSING
(AS STATED IN LETTER REFTEL) "TO ASSOCIATE ITSELF"
WITH ANY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL CONCERNING NAMIBIA
PRIOR TO THE SPECIAL SESSION.

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4. THE AFRICAN AMBASSADORS CONTINUED UNWAVERINGLY TO HOLD THEIR GROUND MAINTAINING RATHER DEFENSIVELY THAT THEY WERE NOT IN ANY WAY OBSTRUCTING THE WORK OF THE COUNCIL BUT WERE SIMPLY ENSURING ITS TIMELINESS. THE CONSULTATION ENDED WITH AMBASSADOR LEONARD ASKING THEM TO CONSIDER OUR VIEWS FURTHER WHILE THE FIVE ARE CONSIDERING THEIRS.

5. COMMENT. THE CONSULTATION WAS FRIENDLY AND CANDID BUT UNPRODUCTIVE. WHILE THIS ISSUE IS NOT FORMALLY CLOSED, IT WAS ALL TOO APPARENT THAT THE AFRICAN MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL ARE FIRM. WE WILL BE

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FOR EMBASSY CAPE TOWN

DISCUSSING OUR STRATEGY WITH THE CONTACT GROUP
SOONEST. END COMMENT. YOUNG

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Type: TE
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